

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTONA NEW RICE RAT (*ORYZOMYS*) FROM SONORA,  
MEXICO.<sup>1</sup>

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A collection of mammals made by Mr. Chester C. Lamb in Sonora, Mexico, and recently acquired by the California Institute of Technology, contains a small series of rice rats which are quite unlike any previously known form. With due consideration of the amount of variation found in this group of rodents the Sonora specimens were compared with series of *Oryzomys couesi mexicanus* Allen and *O. peninsulæ* Thomas from Escuinapa, Sinaloa, and San José del Cabo, Lower California, respectively, and were found to differ appreciably from both of these forms. It is a pleasure to perpetuate the name of Mr. Lamb in this well-marked race as slight recognition of the valuable contributions he has made, as a collector, to our knowledge of the vertebrates of northwestern Mexico. The Sonora rice rat may be known as

*Oryzomys couesi lambi*, subsp. nov.

*Type*.—Female adult, skull and skin; no. 51024, collection of California Institute of Technology; San José de Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico; January 20, 1933; collected by Chester C. Lamb; original no. 17198.

*Measurements*.—Type: total length, 225 mm.; tail vertebrae, 112; hind foot, 28. Skull: greatest length, 30.4; zygomatic breadth, 16.3; interorbital constriction, 4.6; width of brain case, 11.7; nasals, 12.1; anterior palatine foramina, 6.4; palatal bridge, 5.6; upper molar series, 5.0. Average measurements of four adults, including type: skin, 227; 113; 29. Skull: 30.4; 16.3; 4.6; 11.6; 11.9; 6.2; 5.4; 4.8.

*Characters*.—A short-tailed, dark-colored rice rat with weak jugals. General color of upperparts grayish brown lightly interspersed with warm buff on back and rump; cheeks grayish; underparts white, hairs plumbeous at bases even on chin and throat; tail brown above, slightly paler below

<sup>1</sup> Contribution from the California Institute of Technology.

near base. Skull light with weak jugals. Differs from *O. c. mexicanus* in dark grayish brown instead of ochraceous-buff coloration, in actually and relatively much shorter tail, weaker jugals, and more widely spreading pterygoids. Differs from *O. peninsulae* in smaller size (proportion of tail and body about the same), darker coloration, less angular skull with weaker jugals and lateral wings of parietals not extending as far below temporal ridges.

*Remarks.*—Aside from the extreme difference in coloration, the chief morphological character distinguishing *lambi* from *mexicanus* is the relatively shorter tail. In four specimens of *lambi* and ten specimens of *mexicanus* the average lengths of head and body are the same, 114 mm., but the average lengths of the tail vertebrae are 113 mm. in *lambi* and 137.4 mm. in *mexicanus*. Taking the length of head and body as 100 per cent we get a value of 99.12 per cent for the tail in *lambi* and 120.5 per cent for the tail in *mexicanus*.

This extends the known range of the genus *Oryzomys* northward along the Pacific Coast of the mainland of Mexico over 400 miles. The northern record previously published being Mazatlan, Sinaloa (Goldman, North Am. Fauna, no. 43, 1918 : 35).

For loan of comparative material I wish to thank those in charge of the collections at the American Museum of Natural History and the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

*Specimens.*—Four, all from the type locality and all adults with well worn teeth.